

Appl. No. 10/725,713

Amdt. dated June 4, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 24, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (amended) ~~The fishing apparatus of claim 1, wherein,~~

~~a first barrel swivel having a widest portion with a diameter greater than the spring of the spring biased leader connects between the distal end of the first fishing line and the spring and between the distal end of the first fishing line and the leader line of the spring biased leader and a second barrel swivel having a widest portion with a diameter greater than the spring biased leader connects between the spring and the proximate end of the second fishing line and between the leader line of the spring biased leader and the proximate end of the second fishing line, and~~

~~wherein the float includes a passageway extending therethrough having a length that is shorter than the leader line of the spring biased leader and a diameter that is both greater than the spring of the spring biased leader and less than the diameters of the widest portions of the first or second barrel swivels, the passageway receiving the spring biased leader such that the first and second barrel swivels are disposed at opposite ends of the passageway.~~

a fishing apparatus comprising:

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- (a) a float having a passageway extending between opposing surfaces thereof,
  - (b) a first fishing line having a proximate end and a distal end, said proximate end for securement for retrieval by an angler,
  - (c) a second fishing line having a proximate end and a distal end, said distal end for attaching a fish catching device,
  - (d) a first barrel swivel which is too large to enter said passageway of said float, said first barrel swivel attached to said distal end of said first fishing line,
  - (e) a second barrel swivel which is too large to enter said passageway of said float, said second barrel swivel attached to said proximate end of said second fishing line,
  - (f) a spring biased leader including a spring and a generally non-resilient leader line, said spring passing through the float passageway and connecting said first barrel swivel and said second barrel swivel, said spring for extending between an unextended length and an extended length, and said leader line also passing through the passageway and also connecting said first barrel swivel and said second barrel swivel, said leader line having a length which is greater than the unextended length of said spring and sufficient to allow extension of the spring when said second barrel swivel moves away from said first barrel swivel,
- whereby a fish striking upon said fish catching device may cause extension of said spring until said leader line is taut such that the fish then pulls against said first fishing line via said leader line.

Claim 4. (amended) ~~A fishing apparatus, comprising:~~

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a buoyant float for floating in a body of water, the buoyant float having a top surface and a bottom surface and a substantially straight and vertical passageway extending between the top and bottom surfaces;

a first link element for placement above the passageway of the float for receiving one end of a first fishing line, the first link element having a widest portion larger than the passageway diameter;

a second link element for placement below the passageway of the float for receiving one end a second fishing line having an opposite free end for carrying a fish catching device, the second link element also having a widest portion larger than the passageway diameter;

a spring biased leader including a spring and a generally unyielding leader line, the spring passing through the float passageway for connecting the first link element and the second link element, the spring for extending between an unextended length and an extended length, and the leader line also passing through the passageway and also connecting the first link element and the second link element, the leader line having a length which is greater than the unextended length of the spring and sufficient to allow extension of the spring when the second link element moves away from the first link element;

whereby, a fish biting and pulling at the distal end of the second fishing line pulls upon the spring biased leader causing the spring to extend until the non-resilient leader line is taut thus preventing further extension of the spring and thus opposing the forces applied by the fish with progressively increasing tension.

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The fishing apparatus of claim 3 wherein:

at least one of said first and second barrel swivels is replaced by a link element,  
said link element including at least one circlet having a diameter greater than said  
passageway of said float.

Claim 5. (amended) The A fishing apparatus of claim 4, wherein,

the first and second link elements are barrel swivels comprising:

(a) a float having an upper surface and a lower surface and a substantially straight  
and vertical passageway extending between said upper and lower surfaces,

(b) a first fishing line having a proximate end for securing to a fixed object for  
retrieval by an angler and a distal end,

(c) a second fishing line having a proximate end a distal end for attaching a fish  
catching device,

(d) a first barrel swivel located above said passageway of said attached to said  
distal end of said first fishing line, said barrel swivel including a portion that is wider than  
said passageway,

(e) a second barrel swivel located below said passageway of said float attached to  
said proximate end of said second fishing line having an opposite free end for carrying a  
fish catching device, the second barrel swivel also including a portion that is wider than  
said passageway,

(f) a spring biased leader including a spring and a generally non-resilient leader  
line, said spring passing through the float passageway and connecting said first barrel

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swivel and said second barrel swivel, said spring for extending between an unextended length and an extended length, and said leader line also passing through the passageway and also connecting said first barrel swivel and said second barrel swivel, said leader line having a length which is greater than the unextended length of said spring and sufficient to allow extension of the spring when said second barrel swivel moves away from said first barrel swivel,

whereby, a fish striking at said distal end of the second fishing line pulls upon the spring biased leader causing said spring to extend until the non-resilient leader line is taut thus preventing further extension of said spring and thus opposing the forces applied by the fish with progressively increasing tension.

Claim 6. (amended) The fishing apparatus of claim [4] 5, wherein,

the said leader line is at least one inch longer than the said spring when the said spring is not extended and the said spring has a spring constant of at least four pounds force per inch of extension.

Claim 7. (amended) The fishing apparatus of claim [4] 5, wherein,

the said leader line is at least one inch longer than the said spring when the said spring is not extended and the said spring has a spring constant of substantially between six and ten pounds force per inch of extension.

Claim 8. (amended) The fishing apparatus of claim [4] 5, wherein,

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~~the said~~ upper surface of ~~the said~~ float includes a raised portion and ~~the said~~ passageway extends between ~~the said~~ raised portion and ~~the said~~ lower surface of the float.

Claim 9. (amended) The fishing apparatus of claim [4] 5, wherein,

~~the said~~ upper surface of the float includes a raised portion and ~~the said~~ lower surface of the float includes a recessed ~~periton~~ portion and ~~the said~~ passageway extends between ~~the said~~ raised portion of the upper surface and ~~said~~ recessed portion of the lower surface.

Claim 10. (amended) The fishing apparatus of claim [4] 5, wherein,

~~the said~~ float is hollow and includes a valve for equalizing air pressure within the ~~said~~ float with air pressure outside of ~~the said~~ float.

Claim 11. (amended). The fishing apparatus of claim [4] 5, wherein,

~~the said~~ float is hollow and includes a valve for equalizing air pressure within the float with air pressure outside of the float, and,

~~the said~~ upper surface of the float includes a raised portion and ~~the said~~ lower surface of the float includes a recessed ~~periton~~ portion and ~~the said~~ passageway extends between ~~the said~~ raised portion of the upper surface and ~~said~~ recessed portion of the lower surface.

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Claim 12. (amended). A method for deploying an unattended fishing line having a fishing line with a fish catching device disposed at the end thereof, comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a float,
- (b) associating a first ~~link element~~ barrel swivel with the said float such that the said float supports the said ~~link element~~ first barrel swivel,
- (c) connecting a first fishing line to ~~link element~~ said first barrel swivel,
- (d) connecting the said first ~~link element~~ barrel swivel to a spring which can extend between an unextended length and an extended length,
- (e) connecting the said first ~~link element~~ barrel swivel to a substantially non-resilient leader line having a length greater than the unextended length of the spring,
- (f) connecting a second ~~link~~ barrel swivel to the ends of the spring and the leader line opposite the said first ~~link~~ barrel swivel,
- (g) connecting to the said second ~~link~~ barrel swivel a second fishing line having a fish catching device at its distal end,
- (h) ~~connecting~~ securing the first fishing line to a fixed object for later retrieval, and,
- (i) placing the float and the second fishing line in a body of water suitable for fishing.

Claim 13 (canceled).

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Claim 14 (amended) [A] The method for of claim 12, wherein,

~~the said~~ first and ~~second links are first and second~~ barrel swivels which each have a widest portion larger in diameter than the said spring,

~~the said~~ float includes a passageway having a diameter larger than the diameter of the spring and smaller than the widest portions of the said barrel swivels, and,

~~the said~~ spring and the leader line pass through the passageway of the float and ~~the said~~ first and second barrel swivels are respectively connected to each opposite end ends of the said leader line and the said spring.

Claim 15 (amended) [A] The method for of claim 12, wherein,

~~the said~~ leader line is at least one inch longer than ~~the said~~ spring when unextended and ~~the said~~ spring has a spring constant of at least four pounds force per inch of extension.

Claim 16 (new) The method of claim 12, wherein,

at least one of said first and second barrel swivels is replaced by a link element, said link element including at least one circlet having a diameter greater than said passageway of said float.



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